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Bill to make Michigan more bicycle-friendly heads to governor

LANSING – Legislation that would make Michigan roadways more bicycle-friendly by defining where and how bicyclists can ride is headed to the governor's desk, said Sen. Michelle McManus, sponsor of the bill.

"Everyone should be able to enjoy Michigan's roadways safely, regardless of their mode of transportation," said McManus, R-Lake Leelanau. "The clear, common sense guidelines spelled out in this bill will help accomplish that goal."

Senate Bill 1224 would establish fair and concise guidelines for bicyclists to safely use Michigan roads. Under the bill, cyclists can ride on the road two abreast of each other. They must ride in the right hand lane, except when they are:

- Passing another bicycle;
- Turning left;
- Avoiding obstacles in the lane;
- Riding on a one-way street (can be on either side of the road); and
- Going straight when the right lane is a turn lane.

The bill states that a cyclist who is lawfully riding on a sidewalk or crosswalk has all of the rights of a pedestrian and also gives appropriate ways for parking a bicycle on the sidewalk, highway or street.

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